



## **Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,  
Baltimore*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 12, 2007**

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## **Mayor Sheila Dixon Urges Council to Pass Waterfront Management District Legislation**

Baltimore, MD (February 12, 2007) – Citing the unique value of Baltimore's waterfront, Mayor Sheila Dixon urged Members of the City Council to pass Bill 07-0581, an Administration bill that would create a Waterfront Management District and Authority to better serve the City's waterfront from the Rusty Scupper to Bond Street Wharf.

"Our waterfront is one of Baltimore's greatest assets," said Dixon. "Not only does it provide a constant revenue source for businesses, it gives residents a world-class setting in which to spend their time. I appreciate the waterfront property owners' support in making this 'clean and green' effort a priority. I have no doubt this legislation will pass, ultimately benefiting the waterfront and the citizens of Baltimore."

The proposed district would be managed by the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore Inc., a nonprofit organization created in 2005 to act as the lead advocate of Baltimore's waterfront and the promenade park lining the water's edge.

Under the proposed legislation, commercial property owners located in the district would agree to impose on themselves a compulsory tax or fee to fund supplemental services in the district. Services would include enhancing the appearance of the waterfront by planting flowers and keeping grass maintained, keeping the area free of debris, providing information to visitors and organizing events to encourage people to visit the waterfront.

As new attractions and residences along the waterfront have opened or expanded, the waterfront and Harbor promenade have become increasingly popular among employees in the area, new residents such as those in Spinnaker Bay in Harbor East, and among tourists and convention guests.

"I fully support the Waterfront Management District legislation," said Michael Hankin, president and chief executive of Brown Advisory and chairman of the Waterfront Partnership's board of directors. "The creation of the Waterfront Benefits District is a vital step in ensuring that Baltimore's waterfront remains an internationally renowned destination."

If approved the Waterfront Management District would become the third such Benefits district in Baltimore City. The other two districts include the Midtown district, which was created

following similar legislation sponsored by the Downtown Partnership, and the Charles Village Benefits Districts. Under city law, the Mayor and City Council have the authority to create up to six such Districts in the city.

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